



NEWS

Federal Communications Commission
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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

Report No. IN 98- 72 INTERNATIONAL ACTION December 18, 1998

U.S. AND MEXICO REACH UNDERSTANDING ON THE USE OF FREQUENCIES FOR FIRE-FIGHTING AND OTHER EMERGENCY RELIEF EFFORTS ALONG THE U.S.-MEXICO BORDER AREA

The United States and Mexico have reached an agreement on the use of radio frequencies for firefighting and other emergency relief efforts along the U.S.-Mexico border. The agreement is in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Federal Communications Commission, the Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service and the Secretaría de Comunicaciones y Transportes (SCT) of the United Mexican States. The Understanding reserves certain radio frequencies for emergency use in the border area and encourages the parties to minimize non-emergency use of these frequencies outside of the border area. The Understanding also includes procedures for coordinating frequency use and addressing any interference that may occur. In addition, the Understanding establishes a program that will allow Mexico to use certain U.S. radio equipment.

This MOU represents a critical step in advancing the cause of public safety. Stephen M. Jenkins, Chief, Incident Communications of the U.S. Forest Service at the National Interagency Fire Center, stated: "Fire-fighter and public safety is the first priority in every fire management activity [and] this Understanding ... is a major step toward providing this service." FCC Chairman William E. Kennard stated that this Understanding "will significantly improve the ability of both the U.S. and Mexico to protect lives and property along the U.S.-Mexico border."

The full text of the Understanding has been placed on file at the International Bureau Reference Room located on the first floor of 2000 M St. N.W. Copies are also available from the International Transcription Service at (202) 857-3800 and can be downloaded from the FCC's International Bureau internet site at <http://www.fcc.gov/ib/pnd/agree>.

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